

MEWBURN ELLIS
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
PATENTS · TRADE MARKS · DESIGNS

Hitachi Ltd
Intellectual Property Office
New Marunouchi Bldg
5-1 Marunouchi 1-chome
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Japan

Chartered Patent Agents
European Patent Attorneys
European Trade Mark Attorneys
Trade Mark Agents

York House
23 Kingsway
London WC2B 6HP
United Kingdom
Tel 020 7240 4405
Fax 020 7240 9339
Fax 020 7240 0652 (G4)
www.mewburn.com
mail@mewburn.com

Partners
Ian Arncliffe
Hugh Paget
Michael Ford
Roger Calderbank
Patrick Stoner
Sean Walton
Nigel Hackney
Simon Kiddie
Adrian Brasnett
Roger Grimshaw
Simon Kremer
Joanna Cripps
Robert Watson
Chris Denison

Consultant
David Harrison

Assisted by
Sofia Arenal
Rachel Coclin
Ray Coleiro
Michael Foster
Michael Freeman
Stephen Gill
Susan Harrison
Sheila Hill
Allan Hoyano
June Lyons
Mary Medvecky
Matthew Naylor
Kathryn Nicholls
Alastair Rawlence
Michael Sanderson
Ian Stuart
Nicholas Sutcliffe
Rachel White
Wilhelmus Wytenburg

*not CMA or EPA

12 August 2003

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 00300410.8
Applicant: Hitachi, Ltd
Your ref: 349900029EP1
Our ref: NJH/FP5832803

We have now received the search report on this application and a copy is enclosed, together with a copy of each of the two cited documents.

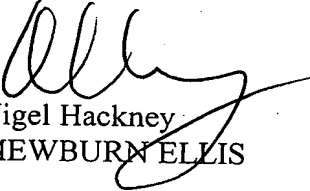
This search report is not an examination of the patentability of the invention but instead aims to find the technical documents which are most relevant to this application.

The searcher has classified both citations in category "X" indicating that they are believed to be particularly relevant.

You should bear in mind that none of the categorisations are binding on the Examiner and you should assess the relevance of these documents. I have only looked at them briefly but can study them in more detail if you wish.

There is no need to make any response to this search report, but voluntary amendments can be filed at this stage if you require.

Yours sincerely,


Nigel Hackney
MEWBURN ELLIS

Enc: copy search report and citations

JSS





P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches
Patentamt

Zweigstelle
in Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

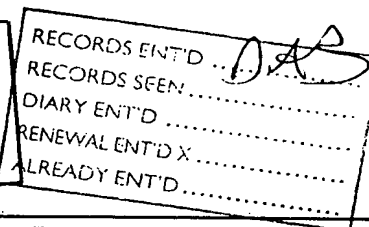
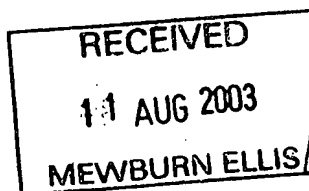
European
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Hackney, Nigel John
Mewburn Ellis,
York House,
23 Kingsway
London WC2B 6HP
GRANDE BRETAGNE



Datum/Date

11.08.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

NJH/FP5832803

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

00300410.8-2201-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Hitachi, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 782 080 A (AT & T CORP) 2 July 1997 (1997-07-02) * abstract * * page 4, line 28 - page 5, line 9 * * page 6, line 18 - page 8, line 34 * * figures 1,5 * ---	1-20	G06F17/30
X	WO 98 12650 A (MCI COMMUNICATIONS CORP) 26 March 1998 (1998-03-26) * abstract * * page 4, line 4 - line 21 * * page 7, line 3 - page 8, line 21 * * page 9, line 10 - page 10, line 6 * * page 11, line 3 - page 14, line 15 * * page 20, line 13 - page 21, line 2 * * figures 2A-B,3A-C,7 * -----	1-20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 1 August 2003	Examiner Konak, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 0410

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-08-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0782080	A	02-07-1997	US	5706431 A	06-01-1998
			CA	2192258 A1	30-06-1997
			EP	0782080 A1	02-07-1997
			JP	9200269 A	31-07-1997
<hr/>					
WO 9812650	A	26-03-1998	WO	9812650 A1	26-03-1998
<hr/>					

3 4466913

537979-200269